2002 Annual Compliance Report
Slick Rock, Colorado, Disposal Site

Compliance Summary

The site, inspected on July 10, 2002, was in excellent condition. Vegetation around the disposal cell has become well established, and the erosional features noted in previous inspections are continuing to heal. Inspectors found infestations of noxious weeds on the site and treated them with herbicide. Wire strands along the perimeter fence had been broken in several places and were repaired. No need for a follow-up or contingency inspection was identified.

Compliance Requirements

Requirements for the long-term surveillance and maintenance of the Slick Rock, Colorado, Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA) Title I disposal site are specified in the *Long-Term Surveillance Plan for the Burro Canyon Disposal Cell, Slick Rock, Colorado* (DOE/AL/62350−236, Rev. 0, U.S. Department of Energy [DOE], Albuquerque Operations Office, May 1998) and in procedures established by the DOE Grand Junction Office to comply with requirements of Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 40.27 (10 CFR 40.27). These requirements are listed in Table 17−1.

Table 17−1. License Requirements for the Slick Rock, Colorado, Disposal Site

Requirement	Long-Term Surveillance Plan	This Report
Annual Inspection and Report	Sections 3.0 and 6.2	Section 1.0
Follow-up or Contingency Inspections	Section 3.4	Section 2.0
Routine Maintenance and Repairs	Section 4.0	Section 3.0
Ground Water Monitoring	Sections 2.5 and 2.6	Section 4.0
Corrective Action	Section 5.0	Section 5.0

Compliance Review

1.0 Annual Inspection and Report

The site, northeast of Slick Rock, Colorado, was inspected on July 10, 2002. Results of the inspection are described below. Features and the photograph location (PL) mentioned in this report are shown on Figure 17−1. Numbers in the left margin of this report refer to items summarized in the Executive Summary table.

1.1 Specific Site Surveillance Features

Access Road, Fence, Gate, and Signs—Site access is by an improved gravel and dirt road maintained by San Miguel County. The road was in excellent condition.

The wire entrance gate was secured with a DOE lock. The stock fence around the site is strung with four strands of wire with spacers. The top and bottom strands are smooth wire to allow wildlife to pass over and under, and the middle two strands are barbed wire. Wires were broken in several sections of the fence by game animals, and subsequently were repaired. With the
17A exception of these sections, the fence and gate were in excellent condition.

The entrance sign inside the stock fence just east of the entrance gate was in excellent condition. Thirty-two perimeter signs, designated P1 through P32, are spaced at approximately 200-foot intervals around the site. The signs, attached to steel posts set in concrete, are 5 feet inside the site boundary. The signpost at P1 has a bullet hole, and the sign at P32 has a bullet hole and is bent. Other than these minor blemishes, inspectors found the perimeter signs to be in excellent condition.

Site Markers and Monuments—The site has two site markers, three survey monuments, and six boundary monuments. All markers and monuments were undisturbed and in excellent condition.

Monitor Wells—The Long-Term Surveillance Plan does not require ground water monitoring at the disposal site. The seven monitor wells at the disposal site were decommissioned in 2001. Two standpipes were installed in the disposal cell during cell construction to monitor declining water levels in the cell as transient drainage progressed. The Long-Term Surveillance Plan stipulated that water levels would be monitored until levels in both standpipes were continuously at or below the 5,838-foot datum for three consecutive quarters. Water levels were consistently
17B below that datum from April 1999 through July 2001. In accordance with provisions of the Long-Term Surveillance Plan, DOE decommissioned both standpipes in June 2002. Steel t-posts mark the former locations of the standpipes.

1.2 Transects

To ensure a thorough and efficient inspection, the site was divided into three areas referred to as transects: (1) the disposal cell; (2) the area between the disposal cell and the site boundary; and (3) the outlying area.

Disposal Cell—The disposal cell, side slopes, key trench, and apron are armored with rounded cobble- and pebble-sized rock. The rock was in excellent condition. No evidence of settling, slumping, or erosion was observed on any of the rock-covered surfaces of the disposal cell.

Area Between the Disposal Cell and the Site Boundary—The area around the disposal cell includes the retention pond and the graded and reseeded areas. Surface drainage from the disposal cell flows south into the retention pond, which is constructed in a channel tributary to Joe Davis Canyon. An outflow channel below the pond is lined with rounded cobblestones for a short distance. The pond, which was dry at the time of the inspection, and outflow channel were in excellent condition.

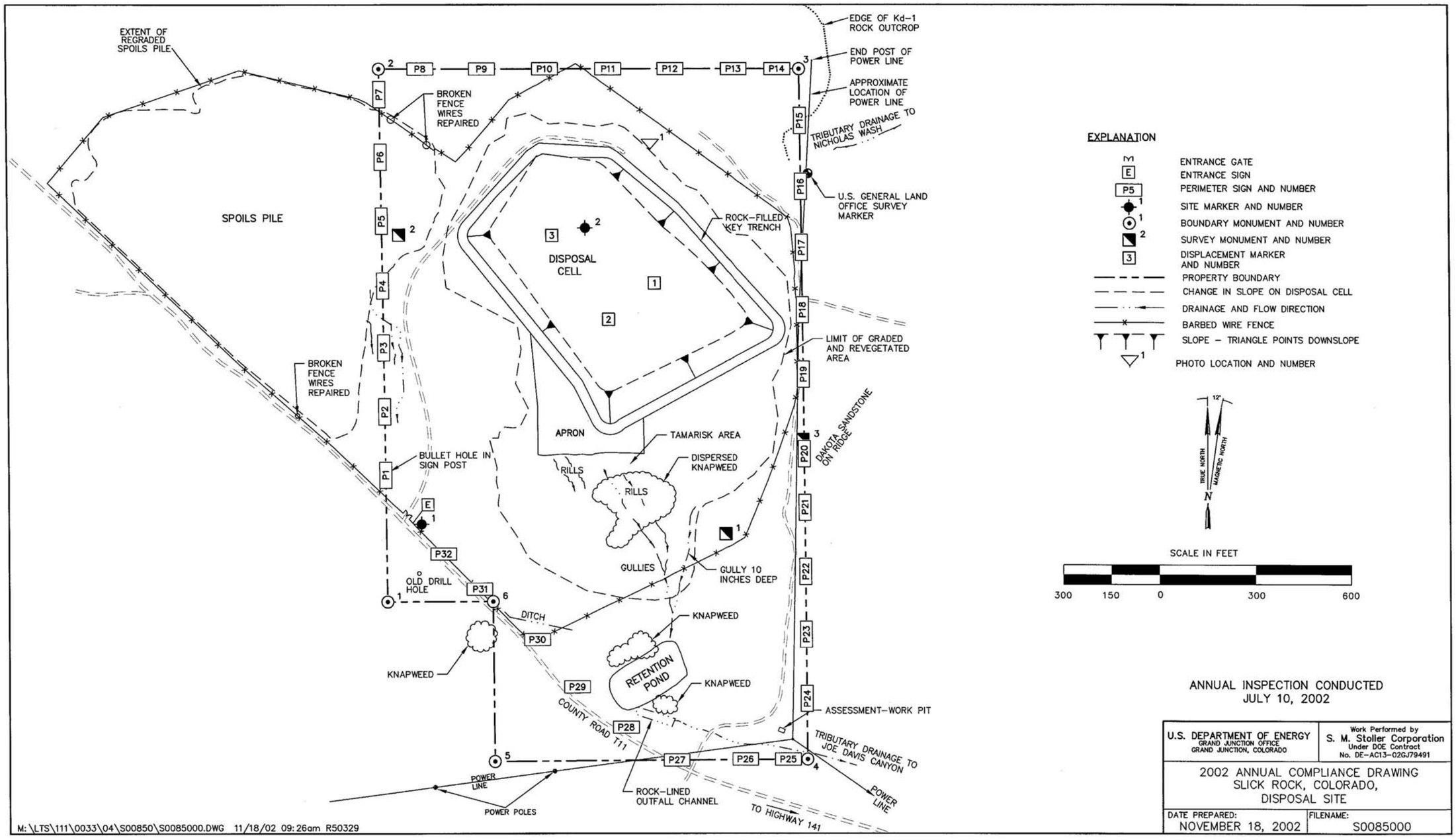

Figure 17–1. 2002 Annual Compliance Drawing for the Slick Rock, Colorado, Disposal Site

Disturbed areas around the disposal cell are primarily on the western, southern, and northeastern sides of the cell. These areas were graded and seeded in 1996 and seeded again in March 1999. Reseeded areas had approximately 20 percent cover by four-wing saltbush and, on the north, west, and southwest portions, an understory of Russian thistle and cheatgrass. The east and southeast portions of the reseeded area had an understory of more desirable perennial species. Photograph PL−1 shows vegetative cover on the northeast side of the cell.

Inspectors also found infestations of three noxious weeds—tamarisk, Russian knapweed, and halogeton. Tamarisk plants occur primarily below the rock apron. Because they were treated with herbicide in March and July 2001, few new plants had sprouted by the time of the 2002 inspection. These new plants were treated during the 2002 inspection. Inspectors contacted the San Miguel County Weed Control officer, who traveled to the site in August 2002 and sprayed for both knapweed and halogeton. Additional treatments are planned for spring 2003.

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As noted during previous inspections, rills and a few gullies are present downslope from the disposal cell apron (between the apron and retention pond) and along the western boundary between perimeter signs P2 and P4. The rills appear to be healing slowly, as indicated by the rounded edges and establishment of vegetation in the bottom of the rills. These erosional features should continue to be monitored.

Outlying Area— During construction of the disposal cell, the material excavated from the site became a 60-foot-high spoils pile on the west side of the site. A right-of-way permit, granted to DOE by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, encompasses the spoils pile and the former staging area adjacent to the site entrance. The permit allowed DOE temporary access to cross and use U.S. Bureau of Land Management-managed land for construction activities. One of the stipulations of the permit requires DOE to successfully revegetate these areas. In September 2001, DOE regraded the slopes of the spoils pile to reduce and reshape them to more natural contours to reduce erosion, and seeded the slopes.

As expected, after only one season of growth and a drought period, the regraded areas were not well vegetated. The total plant cover of 5 percent consisted entirely of Russian thistle, a non-noxious annual weed. No erosional features have developed in the regraded areas. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management right-of-way permit may be closed when the spoils pile and former staging area are successfully revegetated.

Except for DOE's regrading work, no new disturbance in outlying areas was noted.

2.0 Follow-Up or Contingency Inspections

No follow-up or contingency inspections were required in 2002.

3.0 Routine Maintenance and Repairs

DOE performed minor fence repairs and treated noxious weeds in 2002.

4.0 Ground Water Monitoring

DOE does not monitor ground water at this site because there is no pre-existing contaminant plume at the disposal site, and the uppermost aquifer is not a current or potential source of drinking water due to low yield.

5.0 Corrective Action

Corrective action is action taken to correct out-of-compliance or hazardous conditions that create a potential health and safety problem or that may affect the integrity of the disposal cell or compliance with 40 CFR 192.

No corrective action was required in 2002.

6.0 Photographs

Table 17−2. Photograph Taken at the Slick Rock, Colorado, Disposal Site

Photograph Location Number	Azmith	Description
PL−1	100	Revegetated area on northeast side of cell.

PL−1. Revegetated area on northeast side of cell.

End of current section